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Federal Agencies

January 30, 2003

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Art Unit 1761

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 10/050,047; Filed: January 17, 2002
For: **Methods of Increasing Hardness of Food Products**
Inventors: Egbert *et al.*
Our Ref: 1533.1510001/SRL/JLP

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement;
2. Form PTO-1449 (1 page) listing the cited documents;
3. Copies of five (5) cited documents; and
4. A return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

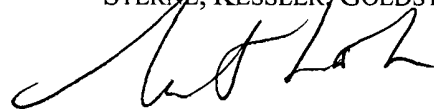
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Commissioner for Patents
January 30, 2003
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Reg No. 45,309

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Enclosures

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SKGF Rev. 2/15/02 dcw



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

EGBERT *et al.*

Appl. No. 10/050,047

Filed: January 17, 2002

For: **Methods of Increasing Hardness
of Food Products**

Confirmation No. 1188

Art Unit: 1761

Examiner: *To be assigned*

Atty. Docket: 1533.1510001/SRL/JLP

First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The numbering on this First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is a continuation of the numbering in Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 21, 2002 in connection with the above-captioned application. A copy of each document is also provided.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

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Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered. This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No statement or fee is required.

Consideration of the cited documents and making the same of record in the prosecution of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

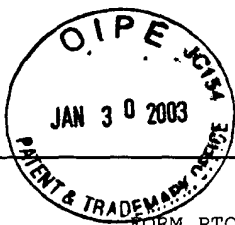


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FORM PTO-1449 <u>FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL</u> <u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</u>	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 1533.1510001/SRL/JLP	APPLICATION NO. 10/050,047
	APPLICANT EGBERT <i>et al.</i>	
	FILING DATE January 17, 2002	GROUP 1761

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA5	3,873,740	03/25/1975	Terrell			07/24/1974
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL1	GB 1 368 402	09/25/1974	Great Britain			Yes No
	AM1	WO 01/08513 A1	02/08/2001	WIPO			Yes No
	AN1	EP 1 147 709 A1	10/24/2001	Europe			Yes No
	AO						Yes No
	AP						Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AR		
	AS		
	AT	<u>3</u>	International Search Report for International Application No. PCT/US02/01193 mailed on October 30, 2002.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.